REVIVING REVIVALS

What is usually thought of when thinking about contemporary revivals? A renowned speaker, a large venue or facility with state-of-the-art sound systems and speakers, aggressive advertising on multiple platforms, wide-scale contiguous outreach activities, and magnificent music with recognized names are the usual components when putting a revival together. But what is it that makes a revival, a revival? Do all these peripheral elements define a revival? What does the Bible have to say about revivals?

Nehemiah 8 is the chapter where we find those answers. By God’s grace, now that Nehemiah has taken care of the enemies, the wall, and the city, he moves on to the religious arena, seeking spiritual restoration. If you have been following along the chiasm of the book of Nehemiah, we started with prayer in chapter 1, revival in 2, organization in 3, and opposition in 4. We hit the apex in chapter 5 in the character and ministry of Jesus! We boomeranged back to opposition in 6, organization in 7, and now, again, revival in this chapter. (You can also guess what chapter 9 will be about!)
Write out Nehemiah 8:1–8 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Nehemiah 8:1–3, 8. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, outline it, or mind map the chapter.
ingest

Gobacktoyourscribedtextand study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that areimportantandhavemeanings to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

Memorize your favorite verse. Writeitoutmultipletimestohelp memorization.

Howcanyouexperiencepersonal revival? Is corporate revival possible? Howcanitbeachieved?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/neh11-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/neh11-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

2 Chron. 7:14
Ezra 7:6–10
Acts 2

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with

Review your memorized verse from Nehemiah 8.
How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Can there be true revival without an encounter with Jesus?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/neh11-6
Review your memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

As you have studied this week, what personal applications have you been convicted of in your life?

What are practical applications you must make in your school, family, workplace, and church?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/neh11-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

How are today’s revivals the same as or different from what the Bible describes?

Are there counterfeit revivals? What do they look like?

Which ingredients are essential, and which are elective?

How does each phase of revival transition to the other?

Which phase is most lacking today? Why?

Why can daily devotional habits be so difficult?

How can the habit of daily devotions be cultivated?

How can biblical revivals themselves be revived?